

**STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT**

# Clarke Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SENATOR CLARKE SEEKS TO PROTECT SOUTHEAST DETROIT NEIGHBORHOOD FROM ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS RELATED TO EXPANDED INTERMODAL FREIGHT FACILITY**

(Lansing)- State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) stated that he was pleased that the Senate Appropriations Committee adopted an amendment he offered seeking to protect Detroit's growing Southeast neighborhood from any unexpected environmental risks related to the proposed expansion of the Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal (DIFT). Senator Clarke's amendment will prevent the spending of any state money on the expansion of the DIFT prior to the completion of an environmental impact statement.

"The Southeast neighborhood is Detroit's only growing neighborhood," said Sen. Clarke. "We need to make sure there are no unexpected environmental issues related to the expansion of the Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal that might harm this neighborhood's future."

Senator Clarke's amendment to the House budget bill, which was approved unanimously by the Senate Appropriations Committee, would prevent any state funds from being released for the DIFT expansion project until an environmental impact statement is completed. While no federal dollars can be used without an environmental impact statement, there had been nothing technically stopping state dollars from being used to jump start the project.

"When completed, this project will put four times as many trucks on these residential streets," said Sen. Clarke. "I'm concerned about the noise, pollution and damage to our streets. I'm also concerned about the safety of neighborhood children with these huge trucks racing by."

Note: An audio clip of Senator Clarke's comments on the expansion of the International Freight Facility can be found at the following web address:

[www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/hansenclarke/press.htm](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/hansenclarke/press.htm)

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